

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 29 is amended while claims 34 and 56 to 59 are cancelled in the present amendment. Claims 29-32, 38 and 48-55 remain pending in the application.

The rejections raised in the Office Action are addressed below.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 29-32, 38, 48-56 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123269 (Gillingham) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,276 (Pereira et al.) and admitted prior art (AAPA).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on October 2, 2008 for clarifying the Examiner's comments in the Final Office Action dated July 24, 2008. During the telephone discussion, the agent for the Applicant Shin Hung, proposed amendments to claim 29 that include features not disclosed or taught in the combination of Pereira et al., Gillingham and AAPA. These features are the limitation whereby the first matchline segments are connected only to a first type of CAM cells while the second matchline segments are connected only to a second type of CAM cells. In other words, only one type of CAM cell is exclusively connected to the first and second matchline segments. The Examiner agreed that this specific feature may not be disclosed in Pereira et al.

Therefore in response to the Examiner's obviousness rejection, claim 29 has been amended to recite that only the ternary cells are connected to each of the first matchline segments, and only the binary cells are connected to each of the second matchline segments.

Applicant submits that Pereira et al. only teaches a configuration where each matchline has a mix of ternary and binary CAM cells connected thereto. Based on the teachings of Pereira et al. and Gillingham, a person skilled in the art would only be led to a segmented matchline scheme where each of the matchline segments have a mix of binary and ternary CAM cells.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 29-32, 38 and 48-55 are not obvious in view of the combination of Pereira et al., Gillingham and AAPA, and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the agent for the Applicant Shin Hung to discuss the merits of the presented arguments and amendments. Shin Hung may be reached by telephone at 613-787-3571 or by email at shung@blgcanada.com.

Favourable action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, and credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Shin Hung/

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